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TO:	Examiner Andrew Joseph Rudy	FROM:	Eustace P. Isidore, Reg. No. 56,104
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☒ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: AUS000060US1

In re Application of:

RABINDRANATH DUTTA

Serial No.: 09/535,559

Filed: March 27, 2000

**For: THIRD PARTY CONTRACT
DEPOSITORY FOR E-COMMERCE
TRANSACTIONS**

Examiner: RUDY, ANDREW J.

Art Unit: 3627

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §41.37Mail Stop Appeal Briefs - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in response to a Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief for the Appeal Brief filed on February 21, 2005. No fee is required to file this Compliant Appeal Brief as the fee for filing the original Appeal Brief was paid at submission. However, should any fees be required to file this Compliant Appeal Brief, please charge that fee, as well as any additional required fees, to IBM Deposit Account No. 09-0447.

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Typed or Printed Name: Eustace IsidoreDate: May 31, 2005Signature: 

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Appeal Brief

Serial No. 09/535,559

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Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on the date shown below.*

Typed or Printed Name: Jane Graham Date: May 31, 2005 Signature: _____

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REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in the present Application is International Business Machines Corporation, the Assignee of the present application as evidenced by the Assignment set forth at reel 010712, frame 0812.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

An appeal filed in related patent application Serial Number 09/534,595 (Atty. Doc. AUS000060US2) filed on December 15, 2003 may directly affect or be directly affected by the Board's decision in the present appeal. There are no other appeals or interferences known to Appellant, the Appellant's legal representative, or assignee, which directly affect or would be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 5, 7, 11-14 and 19-20 stand finally rejected by the Examiner, as noted in the Final Action dated October 8, 2004. The rejection of Claims 5, 7, 11-14 and 19-20 is being appealed.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments to the remaining claims have been made subsequent to the final rejection that leads to this Appeal.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

As recited by Claim 5, Appellant's invention provides an electronic database used as a depository (207, 505, 705) for electronic documents generated during E-commerce transactions (Figure 4; page 7, ll 6-8; page 12, ll 5, 23-24) The depository is a data processing system (page 13, ll 3-21) that includes: (1) means for automatically receiving an electronic document dynamically generated from information provided during an E-commerce transaction that has completed at an E-commerce server (page 13, lines 27-29; see Figures 2, 5, etc. with depository coupled to the internet and Figure 1 describing a data processing system having a network adapter 90), which server is independent of the electronic database, whereby said electronic document stored at said electronic database cannot be modified by either party to the E-commerce transaction (page 13, ll 13-18; ll 32 – page 14, line 2).

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The depository also includes: (2) means for generating a document identifier (ID) for said received E-commerce generated electronic document (page 16, lines 14-17; see also page 17, lines 2-4, which states "[t]he depository further executes transaction code"), wherein said document ID is generated at said database (Figure 8B); (3) means for storing said E-commerce generated electronic document with said document ID and ; and (4) means for transmitting said document ID to each party to said E-commerce transaction that produced said electronic document (processor of Figures 1 and 305).

Independent Claim 11 recites similar features, namely "a depository for ensuring authenticity of electronic documents generated during E-commerce transactions." The depository comprises: (1) means for enabling automatic receipt of an electronic document that is dynamically generated in response to a completion of an E-commerce transaction in which information utilized to generate said electronic document is provided (page 13, lines 27-29; see Figures 2, 5, etc. with depository coupled to the internet and Figure 1 describing a data processing system having a network adapter 90), wherein said E-commerce transaction is completed at a server that is independent of said depository (page 13, ll 13-18; ll 32 – page 14, line 2).

Claim 11 further recites: (2) means for generating a document identifier (ID) to identify said E-commerce generated electronic document being stored at the depository (page 16, lines 14-17; see also page 17, lines 2-4, which states "[t]he depository further executes transaction code"), wherein said document ID (e.g., "reference number" of Figure 8B) is generated at said depository and is separate from a transaction ID assigned to the E-commerce transaction (see Figure 8A – 8C); and (3) means for storing said E-commerce generated electronic document in said depository along with said document ID that is utilized to reference and retrieve said electronic document from said depository (processor of Figures 1 and 305).

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

- A. The Examiner's rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite is to be reviewed on Appeal.
- B. The Examiner's rejection of Claims 5, 7, 11-14, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Quelene* (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,306) is to be reviewed on Appeal.

ARGUMENT

- A. Examiner's rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is not well founded and should be reversed.

Claim 7

At numbered paragraph 5 of the Final Office Action, Examiner rejects dependent Claim 7 and states that "Claim 7, lines 5-6 is redundant to the claim terminology of Claim 1, lines 5-7." However, Appellants have previously cancelled Claim 1. Assuming, arguendo, that Examiner has mistakenly refer to Claim 5 and Claim 1, Appellant offers that while Claim 5, lines 5-7 offers a passive description of a feature of the electronic document stored at the electronic database, Claim 7 provides an affirmative element/feature of the electronic database itself. Thus, both recitations are distinguishable from each other and not redundant to each other. Examiner's rejection of Claim 7 under 112, second paragraph, is therefore not well founded and should be reversed.

- B. Examiner's rejection of Claims 5, 7, 11-14, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Quelene* is not well founded and should be reversed.

Claims 5, 7, 11-14, 19 and 20; Document ID Different From The Transaction ID.

The specific language of Appellant's claimed invention, namely independent Claim 5, includes at least the following features:

- (1) means for generating a document identifier (ID) ... at said database;...
- (2) means for transmitting said document ID to each party to said E-commerce transaction; and

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(3) wherein said document ID is generated at said depository and is separate from a transaction ID assigned to the E-commerce transaction

Quelene generally provides a description of a system that permits commercial transactions over a network or computers that involves propagating a proposal to multiple business relation data structures that each modify and forward the proposal based on the credit relations between businesses, whereby the consumer computer is reached with a set of proposals (Abstract). A careful reading of *Quelene* reveals that *Quelene* is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of any one of the above highlighted features of Appellant's claims. Examiner glosses over the specific features recited in Appellant's claims and states generally that *Quelene* discloses "an electronic database where an electronic document has an associated identifier and is stored." Examiner also states that "it is common knowledge ... to provide non-modifiable read access electronic databases having a document identifier stored at a electronic database."

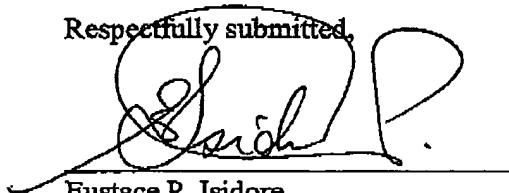
However, Examiner fails to tie in the teachings of *Quelene* with any of the functional features provided by Appellant's claimed invention. No specific citation within *Quelene* is provided, causing Appellant to conclude that no actual support could be found within *Quelene*. Having read the reference, it is clear to Appellant that *Quelene* does not teach or suggest generating the document ID at the database, or that the document ID generated is different from the transaction ID of the e-commerce transaction that created the document. Notably, during a telephonic conference with Appellant's representative, Examiner informally agreed that providing two different IDs (a database-generated document ID and a transaction ID) was not provided by either *Quelene* or "*Ebay*" (which is generally referenced without any support or tie in within the final rejection).

Thus, *Quelene* (nor the combination of *Quelene* with *Ebay*) does not render Appellant's claimed invention obvious to one skilled in the art since *Quelene* is devoid of any teaching (or suggestion) of the above listed features recited by Appellant's claims. Examiner's rejection of the above claims as unpatentable over *Quelene* is therefore not well founded and should be reversed.

CONCLUSION

Appellant has pointed out with specificity the manifest error in the Examiner's rejections, and the claim language that renders the invention patentable over the reference. Appellant, therefore, respectfully requests that this case be remanded to the Examiner with instructions to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

1-4. (canceled)

5. An electronic database used as a depository for electronic documents generated during E-commerce transactions, comprising:

means for automatically receiving an electronic document dynamically generated from information provided during an E-commerce transaction that has completed at an E-commerce server, which server is independent of the electronic database, whereby said electronic document stored at said electronic database cannot be modified by either party to the E-commerce transaction;

means for generating a document identifier (ID) for said received E-commerce generated electronic document, wherein said document ID is generated at said database;

means for storing said E-commerce generated electronic document with said document ID; and

means for transmitting said document ID to each party to said E-commerce transaction that produced said electronic document.

6. (canceled)

7. The electronic database of Claim 5, wherein said means for storing further comprises:

means for allowing a later read access to said E-commerce generated electronic document by a party to said E-commerce transaction; and

means for preventing modifications to said E-commerce generated electronic document after said document has been stored.

8-10. (canceled)

11. A depository for ensuring authenticity of electronic documents generated during E-commerce transactions, said depository comprising:

means for enabling automatic receipt of an electronic document that is dynamically generated in response to a completion of an E-commerce transaction in which information

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utilized to generate said electronic document is provided, wherein said E-commerce transaction is completed at a server that is independent of said depository;

means for generating a document identifier (ID) to identify said E-commerce generated electronic document being stored at the depository, wherein said document ID is generated at said depository and is separate from a transaction ID assigned to the E-commerce transaction; and

means for storing said E-commerce generated electronic document in said depository along with said document ID that is utilized to reference and retrieve said electronic document from said depository.

12. The depository of Claim 11, wherein said storing means includes:

means for limiting a write access of said electronic document to a first access; and

means for restricting subsequent access to said electronic document to read-only access, such that no changes may be made to said electronic document once it has been stored.

13. The depository of Claim 11, further including:

means for controlling a read and write access to said electronic depository, wherein said electronic document is stored in a write-once, read-many format;

means for providing said document ID to each party of the E-commerce transaction; and

means for later retrieving said electronic document for read access by a party to said E-commerce transaction utilizing said document ID.

14. The depository of Claim 13 wherein said controlling means further includes:

means for enabling a non-modification function for said electronic document, wherein a control code of said electronic depository is activated to prevent later modification to said electronic document; and

when said depository also stores other documents that are not generated by the E-commerce transactions, means for flagging each E-commerce generated electronic document stored within said electronic depository to allow only a later read access to said E-commerce generated electronic document by a party to said E-commerce transaction, wherein write access is permitted for said other documents that are not flagged.

15-18. (canceled)

19. The electronic database of Claim 5, further comprising:

means for connecting said electronic database to a separate, independent server at which said E-commerce transactions are conducted; and

means for enabling communication between said server and said electronic database via said connecting means.

20. The depository of Claim 11, further comprising:

means for connecting said depository to a separate, independent server at which said E-commerce transactions are conducted; and

means for enabling communication between said server and said depository via said connecting means.